AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (New) A collaboration server supporting a computer-aided design (CAD) system, comprising:

means for maintaining a database including CAD elements defining an object under design;

means for receiving input commands from a plurality of remote client applications to modify said CAD elements;

means for automatically updating said database to identify discrete changes to said CAD elements, wherein said discrete changes are maintained chronologically; and

means for generating a hypertext markup language (HTML) report to enable user access to information related to changes to said CAD elements in a manner that is independent of client applications.

21.   (New) The collaboration server of claim 20 wherein said means for automatically updating records values defining geometric characteristics of CAD elements when changes are made to said CAD elements.

22.   (New) The collaboration server of claim 20 further comprising:

means for receiving information from a user related to a reason for a respective change to said CAD elements, wherein said means for automatically updating associates said received information and said respective change in said database.

23.   (New) The collaboration server of claim 20 further comprising:

means for indicating in said database an identity of a user making a respective change to said CAD elements.

24.   (New) The collaboration server of claim 20 wherein said remote client applications communicate with said collaboration server via the Internet.

25.   (New) A method for designing a computer-aided design (CAD) object, comprising:

maintaining a database including CAD elements defining an object under design at a collaboration server;

receiving, by said collaboration server, input commands from a plurality of remote client applications to modify said CAD elements;

automatically updating said database to identify discrete changes to said CAD elements, wherein said discrete changes are maintained chronologically; and

generating, by said collaboration server, a hypertext markup language (HTML) report to enable user access to information related to changes to said CAD elements in a manner that is independent of client applications.

26.   (New) The method of claim 25 wherein said automatically updating records values defining geometric characteristics of CAD elements when changes are made to said CAD elements.

27.   (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving information from a user related to a reason for a respective change to CAD elements, wherein said automatically updating associates said received information and said respective change in said database.

28.   (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

indicating in said database an identity of a user responsible for a respective change to said CAD elements.

29.   (New) The method of claim 25 wherein said remote client applications communicate with said collaboration server via the Internet.

30.   (New) A collaboration server, comprising:

a database including computer-aided design (CAD) elements defining an object under design; and

a collaboration server application for receiving input commands from a plurality of remote client applications to modify said CAD elements, wherein said collaboration server application identifies discrete changes to said CAD elements, creates a log of said discrete changes in a chronological order, and generates a hypertext markup language (HTML) report to enable user access to information related to changes to said CAD elements in a manner that is independent of client applications.

31.   (New) The collaboration server of claim 30 wherein said collaboration server application automatically records values defining geometric characteristics of CAD elements when changes are made to said CAD elements.

32.   (New) The collaboration server of claim 30 wherein said collaboration server application receives information from a user related to a reason for a respective change to said CAD elements and includes said received information in said log.

33.   (New) The collaboration server of claim 30 wherein said collaboration server application indicates in said log an identity of a user making a respective change to said CAD elements.

34.   (New) The collaboration server of claim 30 wherein said remote client applications communicate with said collaboration server via the Internet.